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PROVIDENTLY. *adv.* [from *provident*.] With foresight; with wise precaution.

Nature having designed water-fowl to fly in the air, and live in the water, the *provident* makes their feathers of such a texture, that they do not admit the water. *Boyle.*

PROVIDER. *n. f.* [from *providere*.] He who provides or procures.

Here's money for my meat,
I would have left it on the board, so soon
As I had made my meal, and parted thence
With prayers for the provider. *Shakeſp.*

PROVINCE. *n. f.* [from *provincia*, Fr. *provincia*, Latin.]

1. A conquered country; a country governed by a delegate.

Those provinces these arms of mine did conquer. *Shak.*

Greece, Italy and Sicily were divided into commonwealths, till swallowed up, and made provinces by Rome. *Temple.*

See them broke with toils, or sunk in ease,
Or infamous for plunder'd provinces. *Pope.*

2. The proper office or business of any one.

I am fit for honour's toughest task;
Nor ever yet found fooling was my province. *Orway.*

Nor can I alone sustain this day's province. *More.*

'Tis thine, whatever is pleasant, good or fair;
All nature is thy province, life thy care. *Dryden.*

'Tis not the pretor's province to bestow
True freedom. *Dryden's Persius.*

The woman's province is to be careful in her economy,
and chaste in her affection. *Tatler.*

3. A region; a tract.

Over many a tract
Of heav'n they march'd, and many a province wide. *Milt.*

Their understandings are cooped up in narrow bounds;
so that they never look abroad into other provinces of the intellectual world. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

PROVINCIAL. *adj.* [from *provincialis*, Fr. *provincier*.]

1. Relating to a province.

The duke dare not more stretch
This finger of mine, than he dare rack his own;
His subject am I not, nor here provincial. *Shakeſp.*

2. Appendant to the provincial country.

Some have delivered the polity of spirits, and left an account even to their provincial dominions. *Brown.*

3. Not of the mother country; rude; unpolished.

They build and treat with such magnificence,
That, like th' ambitious monarchs of the age,
They give the law to our provincial stage. *Dryden.*

A country 'quire having only the provincial accent upon his tongue, which is neither a fault, nor in his power to remedy, must marry a cant wench. *Swift.*

4. Belonging only to an archbishop's jurisdiction; not accumenial.

A law made in a provincial synod, is properly termed a provincial constitution. *Atterbury's Parergon.*

PROVINCIAL. *n. f.* [from *provincialis*, Fr. *provincier*.] A spiritual governor.

Valignanus was provincial of the Jesuits in the Indies. *Still.*

TO PROVINCIATE. *v. a.* [from *provinciare*.] To turn to a province. A word not in use.

When there was a design to provinciate the whole kingdom, Druma, though offered a canton, would not accept of it. *Hovel's Vocal Forest.*

TO PROVINCE. *v. n.* [from *provincere*, Fr. *provincer*.] To lay a stock or branch of a vine in the ground to take root for more increase.

PROVISION. *n. f.* [from *provisio*, Fr. *provisio*, Latin.]

1. The act of providing beforehand.

Kalander knew, that provision is the foundation of hospitality, and thrift the jewel of magnificence. *Sidney.*

2. Measures taken beforehand.

Five days we do allot thee for provision,
To shield thee from disasters of the world. *Shakeſp.*

He preserved all points of humanity, in taking order and making provision for the relief of strangers distressed. *Bacon.*

The prudent part is to provide remedies for the present evils, and provisions against future events. *Temple.*

Religion lays the strictest obligations upon men, to make the best provision for their comfortable subsistence in this world, and their salvation in the next. *Tillotson.*

3. Accumulation of stores beforehand; stock collected.

Mendoza advertised, that he would valiantly defend the city, so long as he had any provision of victuals. *Kneller.*

4. In such abundance lies our choice,
As leaves a greater store of fruit untouched;
Still hanging incorruptible, till men
Grow up to their provision. *Milton.*

David, after he had made such vast provision of materials for the temple, yet because he had dip't his hands in blood, was not permitted to lay a stone in that sacred pile. *South.*

5. Victuals; food; provisions.

He caused provisions to be brought in. *Clarendon.*

Provisions laid in large for man or beast. *Milton.*

6. Stipulations; terms settled.

This law was only to reform the degenerate English, but there was no care taken for the reformation of the mere Irish, *Watts's Essay.*

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no ordinance, no provision made for the abolishing of their barbarous customs. *Dryden's Ireland.*

PROVISIONAL. *adj.* [from *provisional*, Fr. from *provision*.] Temporarily established; provided for present need.

The commenda femeltris grew out of a natural equity, that, in the time of the patron's reprieve given him to present, the church should not be without a provisional pastor. *Atterbury.*

PROVISIONALLY. *adv.* [from *provisional*.] By way of provision.

The abbot of St. Martin was born, was baptized, and declared a man provisionally, till time should show what he would prove, nature had moulded him to unworship. *Locke.*

PROVISO. *n. f.* [Latin: *provisio rem sua se habuitur esse*.] Stipulation; caution; provisional condition.

This proviso is needful, that the sheriff may not have the like power of life as the marshal hath. *Spenser.*

Some will allow the church no further power, than only to exhort, and this but with a proviso too, that it extends not to such as think themselves too wic to be advised. *South.*

He doth deny his prisoners,
But with proviso and exception,
That we, at our own charge, shall ransom frail
His brother-in-law. *Shakeſp. Henry IV.*

PROVOCATION. *n. f.* [from *provocatio*, Lat. *provocation*, Fr.]

1. An act or cause by which anger is raised.

It is a fundamental law, in the Turkish empire, that they may, without any other provocation, make war upon Christendom for the propagation of their law. *Bacon.*

2. Tempt not my swelling rage
With black reproaches, scorn and provocation. *Smith.*

3. An appeal to a judge.

A provocation is every act, whereby the office of the judge or his assistance is aided; a provocation including both a judicial and an extrajudicial appeal. *Atterbury.*

3. I know not whether, in the following passage, it be appeal or incitement.

The like effects may grow in all towards their pastor, and in their pastor towards every of them, between whom there daily and interchangeably pass in the hearing of God himself, and in the presence of his holy angels, so many heavenly acclamations, exultations, provocations, and petitions. *Havel.*

PROVOCATIVE. *n. f.* [from *provocative*.] Any thing which revives a decayed or cloyed appetite.

There would be no variety of tastes to solicit his palate, and occasion excess, nor any artificial provocation, to relieve satiety. *Milton.*

PROVOCATIVENESS. *n. f.* [from *provocative*.] The quality of being provocative.

TO PROVOKE. *v. a.* [from *provocare*, Fr. *provocare*, Latin.]

1. To rouse; to excite by something offensive; to awake.

Ye provoke me unto wrath, burning incense unto other Gods. *Jer. xlv. 8.*

Neither to provoke nor dread
New war provok'd. *Milton.*

2. To what their courage, and their rage provoke. *Dryden.*

I neither fear, nor will provoke the war. *Dryden.*

3. To anger; to enrage; to offend; to incite.

Though often provoked, by the intolerance of some of the bishops, to a dislike of their overmuch fervour, his integrity to the king was without blemish. *Clarendon.*

Such acts
Of contumacy will provoke the highest. *Milton.*

Agamemnon provokes Apollo against them, whom he was willing to appease afterwards. *Pope.*

4. To cause; to promote.

Drink is a great provoker; it provokes and unprovokes. *Sha.*

One Petro covered up his patient with warm cloaths, and when the fever began a little to decline, gave him cold water to drink till he provoked sweat. *Atterbury.*

5. To challenge.

He now provokes the sea-gods from the shores,
With envy Triton heard the martial found,
And the bold champion for his challenge drown'd. *Dryden.*

6. To induce by motive; to move; to incite.

We may not be startled at the breaking of the exterior earth; for the face of nature hath provoked men to think of and observe such a thing. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

TO PROVOKE. *v. n.*

1. To appeal. A Latinism.

Arius and Pelagius durst provoke
To what the centuries preceding spoke. *Dryden.*

2. To produce anger.

It was not your brother's evil disposition made him seek his death, but a provoking merit. *Shakeſp. King Lear.*

The Lord abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons. *Deutr. xxxiii. 29.*

3. If we consider man in such a loathsome and provoking condition, was it not love enough, that he was permitted to enjoy a being. *Temple.*

PROVOKER. *n. f.* [from *provocare*.]

1. One that raises anger.

As in all civil instructions, the ringleader is looked on with a peculiar severity, so, in this case, the first provoker has double portion of the guilt. *Government of the Tongue.*

2. Cauter;

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2. Cauter; promoter.

Drink, Sir, is a great provoker of noisepainting, sleep, and urine. *Shakeſp. Macbeth.*

PROVOKINGLY. *adv.* [from *provoking*.] In such a manner as to raise anger.

When we see a man that yesterday kept a humiliation, to-day invading the possessions of his brethren, we need no other proof how hypocritically and provokingly he confessed his pride. *Decay of Piety.*

PROVOST. *n. f.* [from *provost*, Sax. *provost*, Fr. *provost*, Ital. *provost*, Lat.]

1. The chief of any body: as, the provost of a college.

2. The executioner of an army.

Kingston, provost marshal of the king's army, was deemed not only cruel but inhuman in his executions. *Hayward.*

PROVOSTSHIP. *n. f.* [from *provost*.] The office of a provost.

C. Pifo first role, and afterwards was advanced to the provostship of Rome by Tiberius. *Hakewill.*

PROV. *n. f.* [from *prova*, Fr. *prova*, Spanish; *prova*, Lat.] The head or forepart of a ship.

He sea-victory of Vespasian was a lady holding a palm in her hand, at her foot the prow of a ship. *Peacham.*

Straight to the Dutch he turns his dreadful prow,
More fierce th' important quarrel to decide. *Dryden.*

PROV. *adj.* Valiant. *Spenser.*

PROV. *n. f.* [from *prova*, Italian; *prova*, Fr.] Bravery; valour; military gallantry.

Men of such provs, as not to know fear in themselves, and yet to teach it in others that should deal with them; for they had often made their lives triumph over most terrible dangers, never dismayed, and ever fortunate. *Sidney.*

I hope
That your wisdom will direct my thought,
Or that your provs can me yield relief. *Fa. Queen.*

By heav'n mere grace, not by our provs done. *F. 2u.*

Henry the fifth,
By his provs conquered all France. *Shakeſp.*

Nor should thy provs want praise and esteem,
But that 'as thrown in treason. *Shakeſp. Henry VI.*

Those are they
First seen in acts of provs eminent,
And great exploits; but of true virtue void. *Milton.*

These beyond compare of mortal provs. *Milton.*

Michael I of celestial armies prince;
And thou in military provs next. *Milton's Par. Lost, l. vi.*

Gabriel!
The vigour of this arm was never vain,
And that my wonted provs I retain. *Dryden.*

Witness these heaps of slaughter on the plain. *Dryden.*

These were the entertainments of the softer nations, that fell under the virtue and provs of the two last empires. *Temp.*

PROV. *adj.* [the superlative formed from *prov*, *adj.*]

1. Brave; most valiant.

They be two of the provs knights on ground,
And oft approv'd in many a hard assay,
And eke of surest steel, that may be found,
Do arm yourself against that they them to confound. *F. 2.*

2. Brave; valiant.

The fairest of her sex, Angelica,
His daughters, fought by many provs knights. *Milton.*

TO PROWL. *v. a.* [Of this word the etymology is doubtful: the old dictionaries write *prole*, which the dreamer Calpurnius derives from *prole*, ready, quick. *Skinner*, a far more judicious etymologist, deduces it from *prole*, a diminutive formed by himself from *prole*, to prey, Fr. perhaps it may be formed, by accidental corruption, from *prole*.] To rove over.

He prowls each place, still in new colours deckt,
Sucking one's ill, another to infect. *Sidney.*

TO PROWL. *v. n.* To wander for prey; to prey; to plunder.

The champion robbeth by night,
And prowls and filcheth by day. *Taffer.*

Nor do they hence so quietly the loss of some parcels confiscated abroad, as the great detriment which they suffer by some prowling vice-admiral or publick minister. *Raleigh.*

As when a prowling wolf,
Whom hunger drives to seek new haunt for prey. *Milton.*

Shall he, who looks erect on heav'n,
E'er stoop to mingle with the prowling herd,
And dip his tongue in gore. *Thomson.*

And here the fell attorney prowls for prey. *Anon.*

PROWL. *n. f.* [from *prowl*.] One that roves about for prey.

On churchyards dear,
The shrouded body from the grave. *Thomson.*

PROXIMATE. *adj.* [from *proximus*, Lat.] Next in the series of ratiocination; near and immediate; opposed to remote and mediate.

Writing a theory of the deluge, we were to shew the proximate natural causes of it. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

Substance is the remote genus of bird, because it agrees not only to all kinds of animals, but also to things inanimate; *South's Sermons.*

PRUDENTLY. *adv.* [from *prudens*.] Discreetly; judiciously.

These laws were to prudently framed, as they are found fit for all succeeding times. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

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but animal is the proximate or nearest genus of bird, because it agrees to fewest other things. *Watts's Logick.*

PROXIMATELY. *adv.* [from *proximate*.] Immediately; without intervention.

The consideration of our mind, which is incorporeal, and the contemplation of our bodies, which have all the characters of excellent contrivance; these alone easily and proximately guide us to the wife author of all things. *Bentley.*

PROXIME. *adj.* [from *proximus*, Lat.] Next; immediate.

A syllogism is made up of three propositions, and these of three terms variously joined: the three terms are called the remote matter of a syllogism, the three propositions the proxime or immediate matter of it. *Watts's Logick.*

PROXIMITY. *n. f.* [from *proximitas*, Fr. *proximitas*, from *proximus*, Lat.] Nearness.

When kingdoms have customably been carried by right of succession, according to proximity of blood, the violation of this course hath always been dangerous. *Hayward.*

If he plead proximity of blood,
That empty title is with ease withhold. *Dryden.*

Add the convenience of the situation of the eye, in respect of its proximity to the brain, the feat of common sense. *Ray.*

I can call to my assistance. *Prior.*

Proximity, mark that, and distance.
Must we send to stab or poison all the popish princes, who have any pretended title to our crown by the proximity of blood? *Swift's Miscellanies.*

PROXY. *n. f.* [By contraction from *procurator*.]

1. The agency of another.

2. The substitution of another; the agency of a substitute; appearance of a representative.

None acts a friend by a deputy, or can be familiar by proxy. *South's Sermons.*

Had Hyde thus fat by proxy too,
As Venus once was said to do,
The painter must have search'd the skies,
To match the lustre of her eyes. *Grawell.*

3. The person substituted or deputed.

A wife man will commit no business of importance to a proxy, where he may do it himself. *L'Estrange.*

PRUCE. *n. f.* [Pruce is the old name for Prussia.] Prussian leather.

Some leathern bucklers use
Of folded hides, and others shields of pruce. *Dryden.*

PRUDE. *n. f.* [from *prude*, Fr.] A woman over nice and scrupulous, and with false affectation.

The graver prude sinks downward to a gnome,
In fear of mischief, still on earth to roam. *Pope.*

Not one careless thought intrudes,
Lest modest than the speech of prudes. *Swift.*

PRUDENCE. *n. f.* [from *prudencia*, Fr. *prudencia*, Lat.] Wisdom applied to practice.

Under prudence is comprehended, that discrete, apt, suiting, and disposing as well of actions as words, in their due place, time and manner. *Peacham.*

Prudence is principally in reference to actions to be done, and due means, order, season, and method of doing or not doing. *Hale.*

PRUDENT. *adj.* [from *prudens*, Fr. *prudens*, Lat.]

1. Practically wise.

The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. *Prov. xiv. 18.*

I have seen a son of Jesse, that is a man of war, and prudent in matters. *1 Sam. xvi. 18.*

The monarch prevented all reply,
Prudent, lest others might offer. *Milton.*

2. Foreseeing by natural instinct.

So steers the prudent crane
Her annual voyage. *Milton.*

PRUDENTIAL. *adj.* [from *prudens*.] Eligible on principles of prudence.

He acts upon the surest and most prudential grounds, who, whether the principles, which he acts upon, prove true or false, yet secures a happy issue to his actions. *South.*

Motives are only prudential, and not demonstrative. *Tillotson.*

These virtues, though of excellent use, some prudential rules it is necessary to take with them in practice. *Rogers.*

PRUDENTIALS. *n. f.* Maxims of prudence or practical wisdom.

Many flanzas, in poetick measures, contain rules relating to common prudentials, as well as to religion. *Watts.*

PRUDENTIALLY. *n. f.* [from *prudential*.] Eligibility on principles of prudence.

Being incapable rightly to judge the prudentiality of affairs, they only gaze upon the visible success, and thereafter condemn or cry up the whole progression. *Brown.*